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True Love
Letters

1761

THE
COURSE
of
TRUE LOVE
in
Colonial Times

Being the Confessions of WILLIAM PALFREY of Boston and the Friendly Advice of MOSES BROWN of Providence Concerning POLLY OLNEY



BOSTON IN NEW-ENGLAND: Printed at
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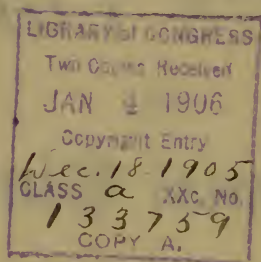
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To the
Reader

THE LETTERS printed in this book belong to the Rhode Island Historical Society, to which they were bequeathed by Moses Brown upon his death in 1836. Those from Palfrey are written in a large, round, clerkly hand, typical of the business communications of the colonial merchants. Brown's replies are the rough and hasty drafts jotted down as a preliminary to the serious task of writing out a fair copy to be despatched by the post or by some private conveyance. Allowance ought therefore to be made for the idiosyncrasies of spelling and grammar, many of which no doubt were corrected in the copies sent to Boston.

MISTRESS POLLY, with whose fate these letters deal, was born on Jan-

uary 28, 1744, the daughter of Joseph Olney, a principal inn-keeper of Providence in the third quarter of the seventeenth century. At his tavern gathered the youth of the town during the exciting days preceding the outbreak of the War for Independence, and before his house grew the elm which served them for a "Liberty Tree"—the name by which the tavern was long thereafter known. Shortly after the affair with Palfrey, Miss Olney contracted a brilliant marriage with Thomas Greene, the son of a merchant of prominence in Boston, and grandson of the Thomas Greene who was, according to the recorded family tradition, "Chaplain to John Gardiner of Gardiner's Island, (with the same pay as the hired men and the keep of his horse extra) and ran off with his daughter Elizabeth who was at school in Boston and married her."

To the READER

WILLIAM PALFREY was born in Boston on February 24, 1741. His grandson, who became the eminent historian of New England, describes him as having "an agreeable person, a frank and generous expression of countenance, great gayety and heartiness of disposition, a fund of anecdote, a seasoning of original wit, and a somewhat sedulous attention to dress as well as manners, advantages which, added to his perfectly correct habits, his known industry and trustworthiness, and his forwardness and influence in the political circles of his equals in age, introduced him favourably to the good society of the town."

In 1761 Palfrey was employed as a clerk in the store of Mr. Nathaniel Wheelwright, next to the elder Hancock the chiefest merchant in Boston. In 1764, shortly after the death of Hancock, the

latter's nephew, who was already pre-occupied by his leadership in the social and political life of the town, induced Palfrey to leave Mr. Wheelwright and assist in the management of the Hancock business. This association led naturally, upon the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, to public appointments. Palfrey became an aide to General Charles Lee, and shortly afterwards a member of Washington's personal staff. As his talents became better known he was made paymaster-general for all the Continental troops. He held this position until November, 1780, when he resigned to become Consul-General to France. On December 20 of that year he embarked on the *Shillala*, a sixteen-gun ship, and sailed out from the Capes of the Delaware. The ship was never heard of afterward.

The historian Palfrey, in the life of

his grandfather, states that in 1762 William Palfrey entered into a business partnership with his friend Cazneau, a grandson of one of the Huguenot refugees from Rochelle who sought an asylum in New England. The books in which were kept the accounts of their joint ventures are said to show “sums committed to his future bride, to be invested for the common benefit, an agreeable form of retainer, redolent of times when constancy did not dwell only in worlds above, and matrimony was a methodical business affair.” How methodically Palfrey regarded matrimony, this contribution to his biography will show.

MOSES BROWN, to whom Palfrey confided his heart's desire, was born in Providence on September 23, 1738. He was one of the “Four Brothers” whose many interests embraced most of the com-

To the READER

mercial, political, religious, educational and social history of Rhode Island during the half century beginning in 1760. Moses, the youngest, is still remembered as a prominent Quaker, the founder of the Friends' School which now bears his name, and a principal contributor and advisor to all good causes. As a young man, the correspondence which he carefully preserved reveals him as the leading spirit among his youthful contemporaries, fond of strong punch and pretty girls, an active brother in the Masonic fraternity, trusted by his elders with delicate political manipulations, shrewd in business negotiations, always prepared to take the most out of life as he found it.

The
Letters



True Love

Letters

N^o. I

Boston 19th Feby 1761

DEAR SIR

I TAKE this opportunity to convey to you the Account which you sent by me to Mr Wheelwright, to whom I have shewn it, & he appears very well satisfied. I am very much oblig'd to you, for the Civilities I receiv'd from you while I was at Providence, for which please to accept of my Sincere & hearty thanks, and be assur'd whenever it is in my power, I shall Endeavour to make you (in some measure) a suitable retaliation.

Please to give my Complements to Miss Sally & the other Ladies, & give my Love to your Brother and Dr Bowen, we have nothing new stirring here at present save that I was made a Royal Arch this Week, if it is not too much trouble would beg the favour of a Line from you & am

Your affectionate Bro:

& humble Servant

WM. PALFREY

TRUE LOVE Letters

N^o. 2

Boston 26th March 1761

DEAR SIR

I RECEIV'D yours of the 18th inst. with great Satisfaction and the more so as I Expected (not knowing you were gone to N York) that you had Entirely forgot me, but am very agreeably dissatisfied, hope some business will soon fall out to induce you to come to Boston as I want a Little social Conversation with you.

I have Inclos'd you two small cutts, one for your Brother, the other please to accept of Yourself & hope they'll be agreeable, should have sent one for the Doctor, but could not get but those two, please to give my Love to the two brethren abovemention'd & to N Balch. Likewise please to remember me to Jo. Olney & my best Compl'm'ts to all the Ladys who I had the hon^r to be acquainted with at Providence Expecially the dear Polly, tell her more than I can Express at Present, I beleive I must make you a Confidante in a certain Amour that shall be nameless. the Gent: of the store (Espec'y Mr. Flagg)

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

join in th^r Compl'm'ts to you. I am with
Great Esteem.

WM. PALFREY

N^o. 3

Boston 13 April 1761

DEAR SIR

A GREAT hurry of business has prevented my writing you before this time, which I very gladly Embrace and am Sorry I could not have the pleasure of writing you before. I got in here about the time I sett, when I came away from Providence which was on Monday Morning about 8 o'Clock after a very fatiguing Journey & Excessive hard Riding.

Inclos'd you have a Letter for P——y which I doubt not you will be kind Enough to deliver her, & in as private a manner as the Nature of the thing will admitt of. I must Confess, a Correspondence with the fair Sex is vastly agreeable to me. Especially with one who I have so great a Regard for as I have for P——y & am very Sorry that I was oblig'd to leave Providence before I had an opportunity to settle the affair with her, as I was depriv'd of that pleasure by her being gone to one of the Neighbours a Visiting, however, hope I shall have another opportunity soon.

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

The bearer of this, Doct^r Jackson, a very intimate Friend of mine & a brother of ours, being an Entire Stranger in Prov^{ce}: should, take as a favour done myself if you'd take Notice of him & introduce him to your acquaintance (Especially of the Females), his own Worth & Meritt will be a Sufficient Recommendation, so I need not mention anything on that head, my Compl^{ts} to all Friends, be kind Enough to tell Balch his Brother came home yesterday in perfect health & has made a fine voyage, please to write ^{by} the post or first opp^y to

Your friend & Bro^r.

WM. PALFREY

Excuse my writing on such bad Paper as it's 12 o'Clock at night & can't get no other.

N^o. 4

Boston 17th Aug^r. 1761

DEAR SIR

WHEN I was last at Providence I had not the pleasure of Seeing you which I was very Sorry for. I should have wrote you before but having a great hurry of business prevented. I was last week inform'd (to my great Surprize) that Polly was a going to be married next week to one Mr. Bowers of Swanzey, a Nephew of Jerathmel Bowers's. I should not have beleiv'd it, if it had been only a Common Report, but I was told it by a Person who accidentally heard Mr Bowers say, that he was going to be married immediately & had come to town to prepare things for that purpose, upon the Questions being ask'd, to whom? he made answer, to Miss Po—y O——y of Providence. I have Enquir'd of several People from thence & they tell me they know nothing of it & that if she is courted by anybody it is by Moses Brown. I am very thankfull that I have not (as yet) advancd so far but that I can Retreat with Honour, but shall be glad You will let me know the

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

true State of the case by the Return of the Post without fail, that I may know how to Regulate my future proceedings. I hope sincerely that I shall find there is nothing in that Report & Shall Rely upon your friendship in the Affair.

Remember me to the Fraternity and all other Acquaintance & believe me

Your affectionate Bro^r.

& hum^{le} Serv^t.

WM. PALFREY

Addressed:

MOSES BROWN *Esq*

Merchant

in Providence

§ MUMFORD

to be left at M^r. OLNEY'S

N^o. 5

Providence, August 22nd, 1761

SIR

I REC^d yours of y^e 17th Inst. with as much surprize as you Rec^d y^e Acc^t of Pollys going to be Marrid, at both y^e Reports of Mr. Bowers Precipitateness and fondness of Publishing it (tho in his Usual Manner) and that of Courting of her. The Latter Report has I believe been the Longest Date as I Acknowledge. I have been Jestingly Told it by my Companions &c. But you may be Assured there never has been any such Determination nor any Words of Martrimony past between us. But the Whole is ocation'd by my being an Intimate friend & Acquaintance of hers. As to the former Mr Bowers may have a Design of Courting P——y for time but as yet I believe I may Venter to say he has not. Tho ab^t 3 Weeks past, She being at Swansy at Some Relations Mr. Bowers Came in Comp. with her to providence and Tarry'd at Mr. Olneys & our House 2 or 3 Days During which Time he Waited on her and Since I have not heard from him 'till the Recp^t

LETTER *from* MR. BROWN

of yours But I here note when he Left providence he Told me he had Business in Boston that Cal'd him in a short Time. I assure you (you'l here I hope Excuse my plainness as its what I Chuse to Deal in and think it ought to be Incoraged Rather than Deceit) When by Enquiring I was Inform'd you pay'd your Addresses to a young Lady in Boston and Consequently your Designs Could not Corripond with your Declàration to Me I thot my self with Po—y most Illy and Very ungenteeelly Used by you, haveing Rec^d from you Several Letters, the Amouras Contents of which I Rec^d and communicated with Sincerity, Such part thereof to Po—y as I thot Consistant with the Mutual friendship I profest to you both.¹

But since the Recp^t of that to which I here Answer, I am again Induc'd to believe that your Words or that which you have Written Speaks your Inclination to Action. Therefore I Balance the Report of your Courting with that of mine as Know-

¹ *Note y^e Contrary had it been y^e Case as you have heard of me and I continued offering you my Services &c who would not have Upbraided me with Breach of Friendship Highest Ingratitude &c.*

ing the Latter & Believing the former to be as yet only fancy & Report and shall only ad that I am pritty Well Acquaintd with Mr. Bowers and If I mistake not he is Nephew to or in the footsteps of his Unkle Jerathmal.

My Compl'ts to all Enq^s Friends, and to further Assure you of my Disinterestedness in this affair, its my Real Opinion that Po—y is Clear from any Engagements as possible. Least I should give too great Reason to be Branded with that odious Tittle of a prolix Writer I Submit the Afforegoing as an Answer to your Request & believe me to continue as heretofore your friend & Brother,

M. B.

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

N^o. 6

Boston 24th Aug^r. 1761

DEAR SIR

I HAVE but just time to inform you that I receivd yours of the 23^d. but being Extremely hurried in getting some papers Ready to go to New York by a private hand, I must deferr answering till next post. till when I rest

Your affectionate Brother
& humble Servant,

WM. PALFREY

if anything occurs in the mean while shall be glad you'll give me notice & the return of the post.

TRUE LOVE *Letters*

N^o. 7

Boston Aug^r. 31 1761

DEAR SIR

I HAD not time to answer yours of the 22^d: by Last post as I was prevented by some particular business which interfered at that Time.

I observe with great pleasure that Polly is disengag'd from Bowers, as to your affair I never gave myself any uneasiness about that, as I always lookt upon it in the Light you Represented it, and am Sorry you should think me so base as to be all along amusing you with false Storys and that, (at the same time I was declaring my regard for P——y) I was making my addresses to a Young Lady in Town. I hope I never deserv'd such an imputation and flatter myself that you Really think I have more honour in me. I assure you that it is false, and that the Story arose from much the same Cause that yours did, being a particular friend and very intimate acquaintance of Mr Cazneau, a young Attorney in this place, I used frequently to be with him at his fathers house, Consequently got acquainted with his Sis-

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

ters, who I us'd some times to take a walk with, & once or twice Carried them with some other Ladies to a play, from which the Story arose (in this Tattling Town) of my Courting her, but I have not been near the house for some time past.

I am very glad that you write your mind, as I should think you were no friend of mine if you did not, as it is a great mark of Freindship, to speak our mind freely & Communicate our Sentiments in such a manner as that neither of us may be deceiv'd by Flattery, or Falsity. I should have us'd you very Illy & Ungenteely indeed had things been as they were represented to you but I hope you are now satisfied that my words & Actions justly Tally with each other. the Subject would allow me to Enlarge but being as great a Enemy to Prolixty as you possibly can, I conclude by assuring you of my Friend-ship, and that I shall ever retain a gratefull Sense of the favours I have receiv'd from you & am

Your affectionate Bro^r & hble Serv^t

WM. PALFREY

P. S. Should be glad you would Contrive

TRUE LOVE *Letters*

to meet me next wednesday at Eleven or twelve O'Clock at Stearns's if your business will permit. I shall set out if Fair weather Tuesday 5 or 6 O'Clock & Lodge at Ames's. I hope P——y will be at home.

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

N^o. 8

Boston 20th Feb^y 1762

DEAR SIR

IT'S a Long time since I wrote you & much Longer since I receivd any of your favours. I beleive you never Expected to hear from me again, but as I think myself bound in duty & Gratitude, to vindicate my Conduct with Regard to Miss O——y, I know of no better way than to give you a Circumstantial detail of the whole affair from beginning to End, in which I shall Endeavour to be as Concise as possible, though I shall have sufficient matter to Enlarge upon.

Its needless for me to repeat the particulars of the beginning of our Amour as you have already had that verbatim from me & have been privy to our Correspondence from time to time, I shall therefore Confine myself to that part of it which relates to my meeting her at Newport & afterwards at Providence, and doubt not you will be fully Satisfied I have acted the Honourable part though some ill-natur'd people have Suggested to the Contrary.

You doubtless remember the Letter

I left with you to go down to Newport where P——y then was, that Letter contain'd a full proposal & what I intended to do in the Affair, that I did not then imagine I should be able to go to Providence again for that Year, & press'd her to give me an answer by Letter, you likewise remember that Letter (w^{ch} I left wth you), was by some unlucky accidents detain'd, & I being uneasy at not receiving an Answer and anxious to know the Result of my proposal & P——ys mind in the Affair, made me determine to take another journey to Rhode Island at all Events, and Endeavour if possible to have an interview, accordingly I sett out with Mrs Eustis (who was going there to see the plays & beg'd me to take her under Convoy) when I arriv'd at Providence Polly was still at Rhode Island where I went immediately & found her there, but notwithstanding all my Endeavours I could not possibly have a moments private Conversation with her, I had the pleasure of seeing you there, and you very well know I was with her as much as possible, but something or other Continually happen'd which hinder'd our being in private, during my tarry there she return'd

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

to Providence where I followd her though strongly Sollicitd to go the other Road to Boston, when I came there I was as bad off as I was before at Newport occasiond by the great Number of Travellers w^{ch} were then upon the Road. I at last began to think I should be forc'd to go home as I came, but was still determind if possible to speak with her in private, to which purpose I told her Brother Jo. the whole affair wth the many fruitless attempts I had made, & begd him to tell Miss Paget of it and invite P——y & me there in the Evening & take an opp'y of Leaving us together, this Scheme at last took, and they left us alone. I opend the matter to P——y by asking her if she had receivd my Letter & what she thought of it, she gave me an answer that I dont well remember, but when I pressd the matter, & beg'd her to give me a positive answer, whether my Continuing my addresses to her would be agreeable upon the Terms I proposd, she told me absolutely that it would not, & begd me to think no more of her in that way. we parted that Evening Good friends (as I thought), and as I lookt upon what she had said to be a final

answer I have never since Corresponded with her.

Upon my return to Boston you may well think I was very much Chagrin'd at the Affair, and as I have often told you I had then no Connection with Miss Cazneau who it was reported I courted before, but by my intimacy with her Brother I continued (after my dismissal from P——y) to go to the house with him as usual, though during the Course of my Correspondence with P——y I had discontinued going to M^r Cazneau's house, in order to hinder everything which had the Least appearance of Courtship between that Lady & me though I have since paid my addresses to her, but at the time I was after P——y I had no more Connection wth her than I had with the Empress of Russia but my going there now, & its being reported I went there before makes everyone who does not know the right of the Story look upon me as a dishonourable person & that I paid my respects to two Ladies at the same time.

There is nothing more Common among the general Run of Mankind than to take up with Reports upon hearsay, and im-

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

prove them to the prejudice of the party concern'd without even so much as Examining the Grounds of such Reports or Enquiring into the Facts in order to form a right judgment, if every one would give themselves the Trouble of doing this, Slander would not be so fashionable a Vice, nor would so many well meaning people be hurt by Calumny.

I should have wrote you long e'er now but upon my return from Prov^{ce}; I heard you were at Nantuckett & neglected writing from time to time, thro' hurry of business & (our principal hand Mr. Hoskins having been Confin'd some time past & nobody but myself to look after the business) but hearing last week that my Conduct in the foregoing Affair had been greatly Censur'd, I was determin'd to neglect it no Longer, but let you know the true State of the Case in order as well to do myself justice, as to convince you I was not imposing on you by false representations which God forbid I ever should be Guilty of. You may be assur'd I would sooner have my Right hand cut off, than be guilty of so base a piece of ingratitude.

Is it possible I could propose any advantage to myself from deceiving Miss

P——y, or what End could I hope to Answer by paying my Respects to two at a time, its preposterous to suppose I courted P——y with a bad intent as she must do me the justice to say she never saw in me the Least indecency in speech or behaviour, and I always paid her as much Respect & behav'd with as much deference toward her as I should to a Lady of the highest Rank and am so conscious of the Sincerity of my intentions, that upon recollecting the whole of my behaviour from first to last, I cant charge myself with one wrong Step.

P——y is now here but I have had no opp^o of being wth her only last night at a Ball which was the first time I saw her to speak to her since that Evening at Providence, but observ'd she was Exceeding Shy & behav'd with an Air of distant Reserve, but I behav'd to her as Genteely as I was Capable, & notwithstanding she has thought proper to Refuse my adresses, yet I must still say she's a most charming Girl, & I wish her happiness Equally with my own. She was not oblig'd to like me because I fancy'd her, & Ladies though they are not allow'd by Custom to make a Choice themselves, yet I think they are

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

much better off by having it in their power to Refuse that of another.

And now Sir what think you of the Affair? I hope (by what I have said) you dont think me so base as to impose upon you, the Generous & Kind Treatment I have met with from you & your Brothers will forever demand the highest Gratitude, & I should be the worst Vilain upon Earth if I did you the Least injury, which you must certainly think I did if all was true that you have heard. When one has to do with a person of Reason & judgment they have some prospect of Convincing them by fair Argument of the Truth of what they assert, but the best Rhetorician in the world would have no Effect upon an Unreasonable man. But I desire to thank God it is not one of the Latter Sort I am now adressing myself to, but it's almost time for me to draw to a conclusion (as the Parsons say) as I fear I have already by my nonsense Tresspassd too much Upon your patience and stretch'd my Letter to the Length of a Sermon though I have gone much further than I at first intended, Upon the whole I hope you will weigh the thing Candidly in your own mind and doubt not you will acquit me

of every thing that has been falsely Laid to my Charge, my intentions were sincere and hon^{ble}: though I had not the Good Fortune to succeed, but had Miss P——y thought proper to have suffer'd me to Continue my addresses she would have found very little cause of Complaint, but since my leaving her (or Rather her turning me off) there has been many Reports spread on that acco^t to my prejudice, which has given me great uneasiness, no one knew the true Circumstances of the Affair but judgd from common Report that I had been deceiving her & afterwards left her. As you were kind Enough to assist me all along I beg leave to return you my Sincere thanks for the same, and it is only for your Satisfaction that I send you this which *if you please* you may shew Polly to know whether I have advanc'd one Fact which is not true. I beg you'd Excuse the Length, & many needless repetitions in this Letter as I've no great Talent at it, & I beg you'd do me the Favour to Let me hear from by the *very first* opportunity. You may depend upon it I shall Embrace every opp^y to serve you, and am

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

with just Esteem of your many unmer-
ritted Favours

Truly dear Sir

Your most affectionate Br^r:

& hble Servant

WM. PALFREY

My Complements to all Friends particu-
larly your Brother Joseph & Miss Sally.

N^o. 9

Providence, March 5th 1762

DEAR SIR

I REC^d yours of the 20th Feb^y y^e 26th,
in Vindication of your Conduct, in regard to Miss O——y, which gives me the Utmost Satisfaction of your Intentions being Honourable, and that your Conduct towards her in no Instance gives the least Reason to doubt of your Sincerity. I am so fully satisfy'd of the Truth of every Surcumstance in your relation that I shall have no other Ocation to Comuni-
cate the Contents of yours to P——y, than to Convince her; if I find at her return home she Retains the Least Doubt of your Intions being Honorable, and you may Depend S^r there shall not be the least Tho't Incorag'd in me that you were Guilty of a Dishonourable A^{ct} in the affair; and I Shall ever do you that Justice of Vindicating your Conduct when ever I find it Nessasary, Consis^g in the Grand principal &c., and believe me to be y^r ob^t B^r & Hble Serv^t

[MOSES BROWN]

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

N^o. 10

Boston 16th April 1762

DEAR SIR

I WROTE you Some time Since but I have not been favour'd with an Answer, which gives me Strong Reason to Suspect you are not Entirely Satisfied wth what I wrote Concerning Polly which gives me great uneasiness, Though in that Letter I said everything I could say consistent with Truth, & if it is not Satisfactory, I cant help it, I have nothing to say further about it but that it has given me infinitely more disturbance than you can possibly imagine. Polly is this minute gone out of the Store having come in wth another young Lady to buy some Silks. I think I could perceive a visible alteration in her countenance & behaviour for the better, as she did [not] seem to be quite so much upon the Reserve as usual.

The Bearer of this Mr. Hoskins who is in the Store wth us being upon business your way & an Entire Stranger, any Civilities you may shew him I shall Esteem

TRUE LOVE *Letters*

as an addition to the many favours Conferr'd on

Your much oblig'd Serv^t

WM. PALFREY

Pray write me by the first opp^y you think proper.

LETTER *from* MR. BROWN

N^o. II

April 18, 1762

S^R

I REC^D yours of y^e 26th Feb^y & Answerd it ab^t the 5th of March which I am Inform'd was Detaind on Acc^t of y^e badness of y^e Road betwen here & boston in which I gave you my Sentiments in Regard to to your Conduct to M^s P—ly which I also had given to — in Boston Since which have rec^d yours of 16th April and am very Sory I was not in Town when M^r. Hoskins Bro't it to our house I have not been able to Inform myself whether he Returns this way or not, if he does I hope to have y^e pleasure of Seeing him. Least my Last Letter should Miscary I in Short Repeat what I then Wrote, That I am fully Satisfy'd you behav'd in Character both to P——y & myself, and am very Glad to hear She is Inclining to think with me on that affair. I am S^r y^r Hble Serv^t & B^r

[MOSES BROWN]

My Comp^{ts} to M^r Flag &c.

N^o. 12

Boston 20th April 1762

DEAR SIR

SINCE my Last to you by Mr. Hoskins, I have Receiv'd one from you dated March 5th: I can't think for my Life where it has been hid all this Time, & am Sorry to say that people in general are not so Carefull of Letters as they ought to be. This Letter fell accidentally into the Hands of Miss Cazneau who from our Connection & a Curiosity Natural to the Sex, open'd it,—however there was nothing in it but what I had as Lief, she, or any other person should see as not, I am very glad I have met with that Candor from you which the justness & honesty of my cause deserv'd, and hope I shall never do any thing to forfeit that good opinion which you at present Entertain of me, am very much oblig'd to you for your kind wishes for our mutual happiness. Miss Cazneau is a fine young Lady & every way Calculated to render the marriage State agreeable I hope to hear soon that my friend Brown has made a choice, and wish he may meet with one every way

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

Suitable to his Taste, hope Miss Sally is well to whom please to make my Complements & to all other friends. I have Long Expected the pleasure of seeing you in Boston but am now almost out of hopes. I am

Your affect. Bro! & hble Serv!

WM. PALFREY

P. S. Pray write me & by the post as it is a quicker & Surer Conveyance than a private hand.

N^o. 13*Tuesday 27 April*

SINCE my writing the above, which has laid open for want of a Conveyance I have rece'd yours of the 18th which sufficiently accounts for the detention of your former one. I have nothing to add, save that by means of an intimate Friend of mine, I have been inform'd of some things wth Regard to P——y which I was ignorant of before, & find that her behaviour to me the Last Evening I was at Providence, was only an Air of Coquetry, as she told my friend Flagg Last Evening that she thought it would have lookt odd for a Young Lady to say Yes, so soon, —I suppose she thought I should not take No for an Answer. However upon the whole she told M^r Flagg, that if there was any Misunderstanding between us, she was very sorry for it, and I hope to see her soon, & Compromise matters. Though I'm Entirely Cutt off from ever having any further Connection, neither do I desire it, but as I still have a Friendship for Polly should be sorry to have her

LETTER *from* MR. PALFREY

ill will, and sincerely wish her happy in some Clever Man who may able to give her all the Satisfaction her heart can wish; I am Sorry I was not acquainted with her temper & disposition before as it would have prevented all that has happen'd. I should have continued my addresses in spite of No's as I should have lookt upon that as a word of Course. Mr. Hoskins gives his Complements to you as Likewise Mr. Flag. I am Dear Sir

Your much oblig'd Serv^t & affect^o. Bro^r.

WM. PALFREY

TRUE LOVE Letters

PROVIDENCE, January 7, 1764

LAST Sunday Evening M^r MOSES BROWN, of this Place, Merchant, was married to Miss NANCY BROWN, (Daughter of the late OBDIAH BROWN, Esq;) an agreeable young Lady, with a handsome Fortune.

From the PROVIDENCE Gazette and Country Journal, Saturday, January 7, 1764.

PROVIDENCE, August 25, 1764

TUESDAY Evening last M^r THOMAS GREENE, of Boston, Merchant, was married to Miss POLLY OLNEY, of this Town; a young Lady who has real Merit, added to a beautiful Person, to grace the connubial State, and perpetuate its Felicity.

From the PROVIDENCE Gazette and Country Journal, Saturday, August 25, 1764.

BOSTON, February 14, 1765

M^r WILLIAM PALFREY was married to Miss SARAH CAZNEAU.

JAN 4 1906

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